

**Minutes of HTCSCI BOT Meeting, 2/14/15  
Hindu Temple Site**

**Present**

Nani Bhowmik  
Pallassana R Balgopal  
Rita Mandan  
Pratap Vanka  
Pradeep Khanna  
Kodandarao Uppuluri  
Amita Sinha  
Raju Perecharla  
Kalyansubbu Sundarvelu  
Manisha Patel

**Proxy**

Kalindi Patel

**Absent**

Koeli Goel  
Bala Sridaran  
Raghavendra Pradyumna  
Dinesh Chawla  
Sanjeeva Reddy  
Ravi Gogula

11 members including proxies were present. Quorum was met.

1. The meeting started at 1 pm with a prayer.
2. The minutes of the previous BOT meeting were approved.
3. There was no treasurer's report as Ravi was not present.
4. The issue of mentioning the main financial numbers in the BOT meetings was discussed. It was agreed that the numbers should be mentioned in the minutes. Also, the treasurer's report will be posted on the web.
5. A substantial amount of time was spent on the issue of priest's vacation and other behavioral concerns. All BOT members were given an opportunity to express their opinion on the priest vacation. Several expressed their dissatisfaction on the priest's tardiness in keeping up with posted timings. The priest informed Pratap on the 12<sup>th</sup> January that he wants to take three weeks vacation (total of 17 working days) starting April 28<sup>th</sup> and ending May 18<sup>th</sup>. However, he has only 8 days accumulated vacation (6 + 2 days of off-day work) and 4 days sick leave. Discussion centered on the nature of service agreement (whether he is a contractor or an employee), and

whether he has an obligation to supply a substitute priest. Several said that he has a contract with us, so he is responsible to fulfill the terms of the contract. Some felt otherwise. In the end, the vacation of the priest was approved. It was agreed that we withhold his pay for a total of 9 days. He is entitled to a total of 8 days vacation only.

6. There was a discussion on talking to the priest about his contract and several other issues related to his working style. Issuing a written warning on not keeping the contract was discussed. It was agreed that the BOT draft a written warning letter and provide it to the priest. Pradeep Khanna agreed to draft one for discussion.

7. Amita mentioned that she intends to raise funds for trees.

8. Balgopal mentioned that we should consider growing vegetables on our lot that is currently not being farmed. Nani briefed on last year's experiences with such a Community Garden.

9. Nani bhowmik proposed the formation of a Subcommittee under the Facilities Committee to plan the construction of additional space. Members of this Planning Committee will consist of all the Trustees and several Community Members. This proposal was approved by a voice vote and Nani will initiate the formation and subsequent deliberations of this Planning Committee.

10. The issue of BOT members keeping the temple open on weekends was discussed. Raju and Pradeep expressed that relying on volunteers is not a good idea. Raju expressed that current timings on weekends are working fine, and we need not keep the temple open all day on weekends.

11. Pratap mentioned that BOT members are not coming to the temple, as per the previous sign-up sheet. It is necessary for all BOT members to equally contribute their time to the temple responsibilities else the burden is falling asymmetrically on only a few.

12. Pradeep mentioned that we should open the temple at announced timings. Currently the priest has not been punctual in coming to the temple. This will be relayed to the priest.

13. Kodandarao mentioned that on a few days we should keep the temple open all day. Some of these are: New Year's Day, Diwali, and Sankranti and major events day if it falls on the weekends.

14. The issue of adding new deities was discussed. It was agreed that for the moment, we put a moratorium on new deities. In future, the new deities must be approved by the General Body.

13. The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.